JourneyBeyond

Rwanda

Pre-Departure Information

Rwanda

Journey To Rwanda

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Rwanda

Land of a Thousand Hills

Rwanda is a destination of extraordinary beauty and resilience. From the misty mountains of Volcanoes National Park, home to the endangered mountain gorillas, to the tranquil shores of Lake Kivu and the vibrant capital city of Kigali, Rwanda offers a deeply moving and memorable travel experience.

With its focus on sustainability and conservation, Rwanda provides a unique blend of natural encounters and cultural richness. Visitors are welcomed by warm hospitality, clean and safe cities, and unforgettable wildlife encounters.

A Journey to Rwanda is both inspirational and transformative.

Time Zone

GMT +2 Hours

One hour ahead of Central European Winter Time

Seven hours ahead of Eastern Standard Winter Time, USA

Entry Information

Passport Requirements

Passports must be valid for at least 6 months beyond the date of departure from Rwanda and must have at least two blank pages per destination.

Visa & Entry Requirements

Most nationalities require a visa to enter Rwanda. Visas can be obtained on arrival or online via the Rwanda e-Visa system. Citizens of the African Union, Commonwealth, and Francophonie nations are eligible for free visas on arrival.

Travelling with a Minor

When travelling with a minor, carry a copy of their birth certificate, passport and a parental consent letter if only one parent or guardian is accompanying.

Travel Insurance

Comprehensive travel insurance is mandatory. It must cover medical emergencies, personal effects, and travel disruptions. Journey Beyond cannot be held liable for any unforeseen delays, cancellations, or losses.

Health Requirements

Covid-19

All Covid-19 travel restrictions have been lifted. No testing or vaccination proof is required for entry.

Malaria

Rwanda is a malaria-risk country. Consult your doctor for appropriate prophylactics. Use insect repellent, wear long sleeves in the evenings, and sleep under mosquito nets.

Yellow Fever

A Yellow Fever vaccination certificate is required if arriving from or transiting through a Yellow Fever risk country.

Additional Travel Vaccinations

Routine vaccinations such as Hepatitis A, Typhoid, and Tetanus are recommended. Consult your healthcare provider before travel.

Baggage Information

Going on safari?

Small aircraft are used when travelling to remote areas on safari, if a safari is included in your itinerary the following baggage restrictions will apply. Due to the limited packing capacity of small aircraft, all luggage must be packed in soft-sided duffel bags, with one flat side permitted. Please see examples below:

Maximum checked luggage

- Weight: 15kgs/33lbs (Includes Handbags, Photographic/filming equipment) in soft sided bags
- Measurements: 60cm (24 inches) height, 45cm (18 inches) length and 33cm (13 inches) width.

Maximum hand luggage

(please note that the hand luggage forms part of the 15kgs/33lbs baggage allowance)

- Weight: 5kgs/11lbs
- Measurements: 30cm (12 inches) height, 53cm (21 inches) length and 23cm (9 inches) width.

Standard local & regional airlines

Maximum checked luggage

- Weight: 15kgs/33lbs (in the hold)

Maximum hand luggage (dimensions as per international onboard regulations)

- Weight: 5kgs/11lbs

Important Notice

Luggage exceeding these limitations will not be loaded onto the aircraft. For additional options regarding excess luggage, assistance can be provided by your Travel Advisor.

Gear up!

Suggested Packing Guide

General Guide

- Shorts, T-shirts, summer dresses for the daytime (light, natural fabrics like cotton and linen are recommended)
- Warm clothing options for evenings, even in Summer
- Swimwear
- Sandals, comfortable closed walking shoes(sneakers)
- Sun hat, sunglasses and sunscreen
- Camera, video camera, binoculars, spare memory cards and charging equipment
- International Adapters
- Spare contact lenses/glasses and contact lens solution
- Any prescribed medication

On Safari

The general packing list above applies, however it is advised to pack neutral tones and light colors. These hues help you blend into the surroundings, minimizing the disturbance to wildlife. Additional items recommended for your Safari are:

- Long trousers, long-sleeved vests and a warm jacket for early mornings and evenings
- Insect repellent
- A light rain jacket
- Comfortable walking shoes, preferably those that cover your ankles
- Woolen hat/beanie, gloves and scarf for winter months

Other Destinations

(e.g. Kigali, Lake Kivu)

- Casual day wear, smart casual options for dining out
- Hiking gear if included in itinerary.

Hotel Amenities

Please note that the hotels you are staying at will have all your basic amenities such as:

- Shampoo and conditioner
- Hand & Body wash
- Body lotion
- Hairdryer

Trekking Attire

Trekking Conditions vary, so it's best to be prepared for rain & muddy terrain and pack:

- Waterproof hiking boots with a good grip & ankle support
- Waterproof jacket/raincoat
- Water resistant hiking trousers
- Thick socks
- Long-sleeved top
- Waterproof hat

Important to note that most lodges will provide:

- Gloves
- Hiking chaps/gators
- Trekking poles

Please discuss with your Travel Designer as to whether your specific destination provides the above.

Weather & Seasons

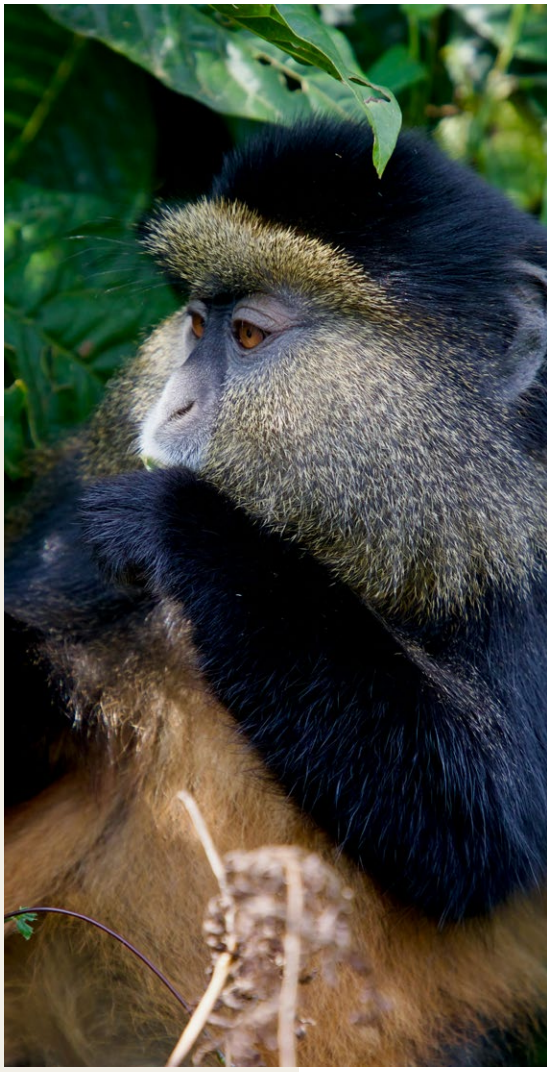
Rwanda has a mild, temperate climate due to its elevation.

- Short dry season: December to February
- Long wet season: March to May
- Long dry season: June to September
- Short wet season: October to November

Daytime temperatures are generally between 24–28°C (75–82°F), with cooler evenings in the mountains.

Please click here for a accurate weather forecast.

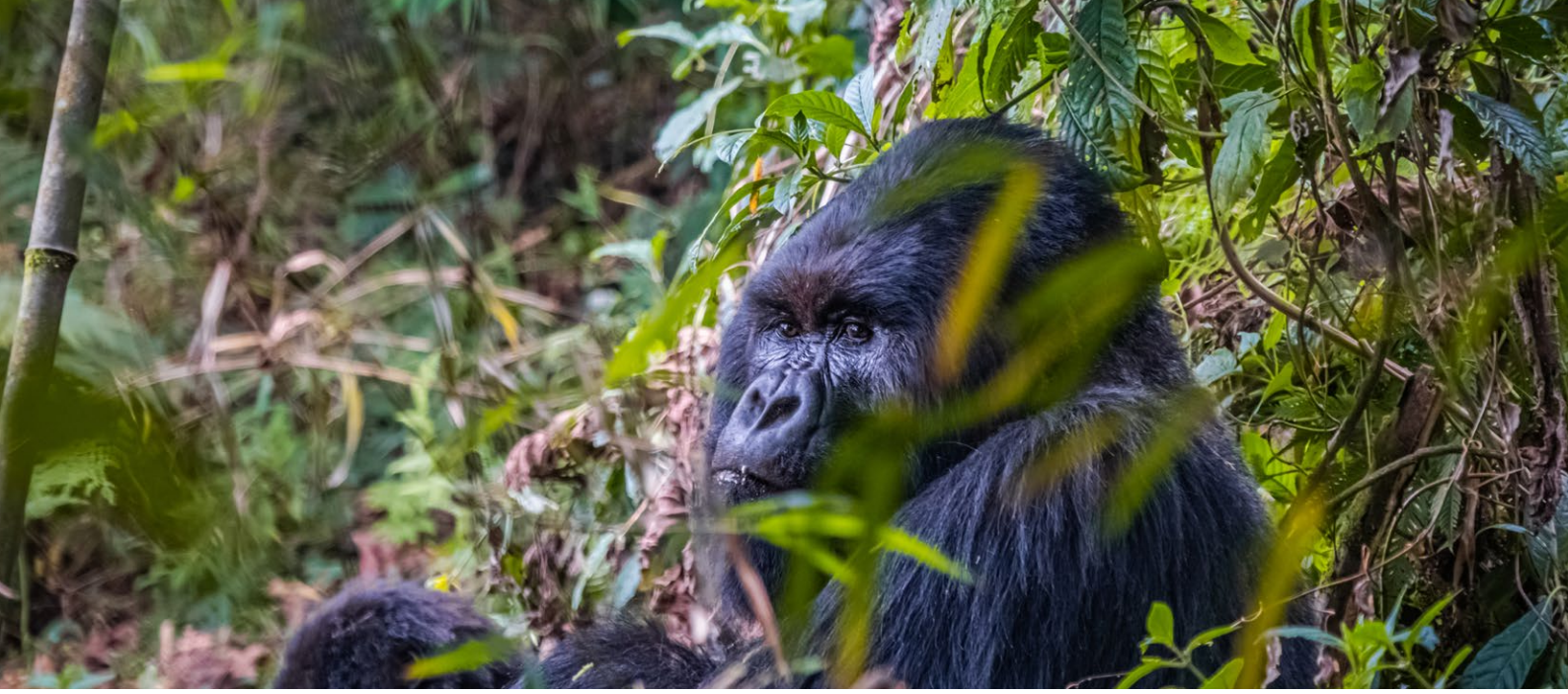
City	Average temp (°C)				Average temp (°F)			
	Summer		Winter		Summer		Winter	
	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min
Kigali	26	16	25	14	79	61	77	57
Volcanoes NP	22	10	20	8	72	50	68	46
Akagera NP	28	18	26	16	82	64	79	61
Nyungwe NP	24	12	22	10	75	54	72	50



Currency & Payment Options

- Currency: Rwandan Franc (RWF)
- Credit cards (Visa, MasterCard) are accepted in most hotels and major establishments
- Cash is recommended for markets, smaller towns, and rural areas
- Foreign currency is not accepted for purchases, but USD/EUR may be used for gratuities in lodges

Click here for an accurate exchange rate.



Gratuity Guidelines

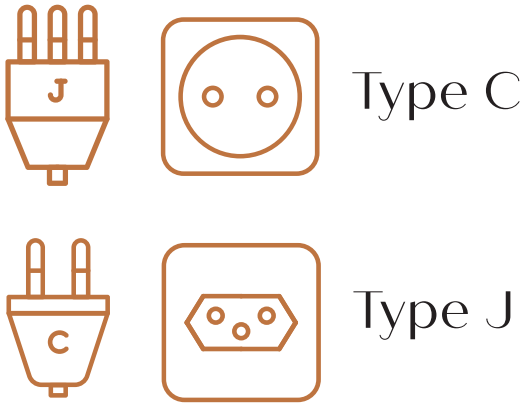
Position	Amount
Tracker	USD 10 - USD 20 per person per trek
Trekking Guide	USD 20 - USD 30 per person per trek
Porter	USD 25 per person per trek
Please have cash on hand for the above Volcanoes National Park Officials at the completion of your trek.	
Driver Guide	USD 15 - USD 20 per person per day
Waiter	USD 20 - USD 25 per person per day
General Staff	USD 20 - USD 30 per person per day
Spa/Wellness Therapist	10% of treatment cost

City

Position	Amount
City Restaurants	10-15% of meal cost
Bag Porters	USD 2 per assistance
Airport Meet & Greet	USD 5 per assistance

Plug points Guidelines

- Voltage: 230V
- Plug types: Type C & Type J
- International adaptors are required
- Some remote lodges may rely on solar power or generators, especially for charging devices



Communications & Technology

- Rwanda has reliable mobile coverage and internet access in most urban areas
- SIM cards are available for purchase; MTN and Airtel are the major providers
- The international dialing code is +250
- Wi-Fi is available at most hotels and lodges, though connectivity may be limited in remote areas

Key Points To Remember

- English and French are widely spoken. Kinyarwanda is the national language.
- Malaria precautions are essential.
- Yellow Fever certificate may be required based on your travel history.
- Travel insurance is essential.
- Luggage limits apply for small aircraft; confirm with your Travel Designer.
- Bring all essential medications and prescription eyewear.
- Local currency is the Rwandan Franc (RWF); foreign cash is not accepted in stores.
- Reliable internet is available at most accommodations.

Safe Travels

It's All About The Journey